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Press Release

February 3, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ATTORNEY GENERAL MCGRAW AWARDS FUNDING TO GREENBRIER COUNTY HOME INCARCERATION PROGRAM FROM THE PHARMA, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Charleston -- Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced the distribution of \$25,000 to the Greenbrier County Home Incarceration Program for the operation of its home incarceration program. This money comes from the latest installment in the \$10,000,000 settlement with Purdue Pharma, Inc. over the addictive qualities of the drug Oxycontin.

Home incarceration programs are paid for by the participants. Regional Jail fees average \$48.50 per month. This represents enormous savings for counties and taxpayers. The cost of home incarceration is significantly less than housing offenders in a regional jail. The cost of housing low risk offenders in regional jails has placed a great financial burden on small counties. Alternative sentencing programs are more cost efficient and more appropriate in cases where offenders would be more productive remaining in the community, employed and with their families. Alternative sentencing programs are for low risk offenders who are better served by rehabilitation than incarceration. Successful rehabilitation also cuts down on recidivism which saves counties the cost of housing repeat offenders.

"The courts and the legislature have indicated a desire to use these programs as an alternative to prisons. The cost of housing non-violent offenders in regional jails has proven costly to taxpayers and counties. No citizen wants to see vital county services sacrificed because of the high cost of housing low risk offenders in regional jails." McGraw stated.

"These projects are expected to give offenders, who the courts consider to be low risk to the community, the opportunity to repair themselves and to rebuild their lives. That preserves families, reduces recidivism and spares taxpayers and cash-strapped counties the expense of housing offenders who would be better rehabilitated in their communities and among their families." McGraw added.

Purdue Pharma agreed to pay West Virginia \$10 million over four years and the awards came from the second installment of \$2.5 million.

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